
OLR Bill Analysis

HB 6453

AN ACT CONCERNING FOAMED-IN-PLACE INSULATING MATERIAL.

SUMMARY:

Current law bans the installation of urea-formaldehyde foamed-in-place insulation (UFFI), except for urethane foam insulation or styrene foam insulation, in any building or structure.

This bill narrows the definition of UFFI and extends the ban on UFFI installation to UFFI sales as well.

The bill also bans the sale and installation of all other foamed-in-place insulating material, unless the manufacturer or supplier certifies to the state building inspector that the material meets the GREENGUARD Environmental Institute's indoor air quality emissions standards under specified tests. The bill retains the exemption for urethane foam insulation or styrene foam insulation.

The bill extends the penalty for the unlawful installation of UFFI to the sale of UFFI and sale and installation of other foamed-in-place insulation. A first violation is punishable by a fine of up to \$500 and a subsequent violation by a fine of up to \$1,000.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 1, 2013

UFFI

Current law defines "UFFI" (also referred to as formaldehyde-based insulation) as cellular plastic thermal material, irrespective of how generated, containing chemical formaldehyde, formaldehyde polymers or derivatives, or other chemicals that can release formaldehyde. The definition does not include urethane foam insulation or styrene foam insulation.

The bill narrows the definition of UFFI by excluding references to formaldehyde polymers and derivatives and formaldehyde releasing chemicals. It also defines the material by the method used to generate it. Under the bill, "UFFI insulation material" means a cellular plastic insulation material generated in a continuous stream by mixing a urea-formaldehyde-based resin, air, and a foaming agent.

OTHER FOAMED-IN-PLACE INSULATION

The bill bans the sale or installation of any foamed-in-place insulating material unless the manufacturer or supplier certifies to the state building inspector that the cured material meets GREENGUARD'S Environmental Institute's indoor air quality emissions standards as determined by one of the following tests conducted by a laboratory approved by the state building inspector:

1. ASTM D6007 modified test,
2. GREENGUARD Environmental Institute Formaldehyde Free Verification Requirements,
3. CAN/ULC-S774-09 Standard Laboratory Guide for the Determination of Volatile Organic Compound Emissions from Polyurethane Foam, or
4. any other test or documentation acceptable to the state building inspector that documents the emission or release of urea formaldehyde within cured insulating material.

The certification must also contain:

1. the manufacturer's name;
 2. a description of the type of insulating material being certified in sufficient detail to permit its identification, such as information sheets, brochures, a sample product label, or similar information;
 3. a statement that the insulating material is not a UFFI material;
- and

4. a description of the quality assurance program used by the supplier or manufacturer, including the training program for installers of the insulating material.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Public Safety and Security Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 23 Nay 0 (03/07/2013)